



CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TRAIL



PLANNING THE TRAIL

Paddle Antrim’s vision is thriving communities connected by pristine and well-maintained waterways. We are excited to lead and facilitate the development of the Chain of Lakes Water Trail. Through cooperation and collaboration with public and private partners and landowners, we look forward to creating, managing and maintaining a premier water trail.

A water trail is a designated route along a river, lake, canal, or bay designed for people using small, non-motorized watercraft like kayaks and canoes. Water trails encourage healthy lifestyles, provide a sense of community and place, encourage preservation of waterways, and positively impact local businesses.

A WATER TRAIL IS A DESIGNATED ROUTE ALONG A RIVER, LAKE, CANAL OR BAY DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE USING SMALL, NON-MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT LIKE KAYAKS AND CANOES.

Our water trail plan follows the draft State of Michigan Water Trail Criteria and uses the Federal Water Trail Designation’s ten best management practices. The plan outlines all the key elements necessary to lead this trail into development. The complete water trail plan can be found at www.paddleantrim.com/water-trail.

PADDLE ANTRIM

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WATER TRAILS IMPACT THE ECONOMY

Water trails have a positive impact on the local economy, especially in communities that incorporate trails. Studies show paddlers spend an average of \$126 on day trips and \$268 on overnight trips. Also, participation in paddle sport activities is on the rise. According the Outdoor Foundation’s 2016 Report, paddle sports saw some of the highest rates of growth from 2012-2015 with stand up paddle boarding at the top with an average annual increase of 26%, kayak fishing at 17% and sea/tour kayaking at 8%.



BUILDING THE TRAIL

The Chain of Lakes provides wonderful opportunities for non-motorized watercrafts. There are diverse paddling opportunities for all skill levels from short day trips to overnight excursions. We are committed to working with access site owners to develop routes that are barrier free so that facilities and its amenities can be approached, entered, and used by persons with disabilities.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ACCESS SITES: Thanks to the support of 16 jurisdictions, over 70 access sites & rest stops have been included on the water trail. Through partnership agreements Paddle Antrim and the access site owner will formalize roles and identify improvements needed at each site.

As part of our management strategy, we are designating different levels of access: Trailheads, access sites, and rest stops. **Trailheads** will serve as the primary entrance and exit sites for designated routes. Paddle Antrim's communications materials will encourage trail users to launch and exit from these sites. **Access sites** are suitable launch and exit sites though some may include longer carry-in launches and limited parking. **Rest stops** are not ideal for routine access, but do provide a safe haven for individuals who need to get out of the water.

ROUTES: We have identified 14 different routes to date, ranging from three miles to over 30 miles. Beginner and intermediate routes will be found on the Upper Chain while the Lower Chain has an array of intermediate and advanced routes.

MAPPING – Mapping the trail is necessary for identifying routes and gaps in services as well as for water trail users planning trips and while on the water. In partnership with Land Information Access Association, all access sites and proposed routes for the Chain of Lakes Water Trail are mapped and can be found at www.michiganwatertrails.org.

STEWARDSHIP – Stewardship is integral to water trail development. The Chain of Lakes watershed has a strong conservation and

stewardship vision and practice in place through the Watershed Plan and Implementation Team which we participate in. Through our website, at our events, at access sites and in printed material, we will promote stewardship of the land and waterways and include topics such as water quality, leave no trace etiquette, and aquatic invasive species prevention.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Water trail users need information for planning trips as well as for use while on the trail. Information on the water trail, access sites, amenities, and routes are critical for promotion and proper use. Paddle Antrim is developing information to use both online and in print. We are also developing sign standards for access site locations along the trail. The signs will include not only water trail information but information on stewardship, safety, other recreational opportunities and services within the communities.

MAINTENANCE – Sustainable development of a water trail also includes planning for future maintenance of the trail and access sites. We want to ensure the water trail will be maintained in the future and are considering this with each improvement undertaken.

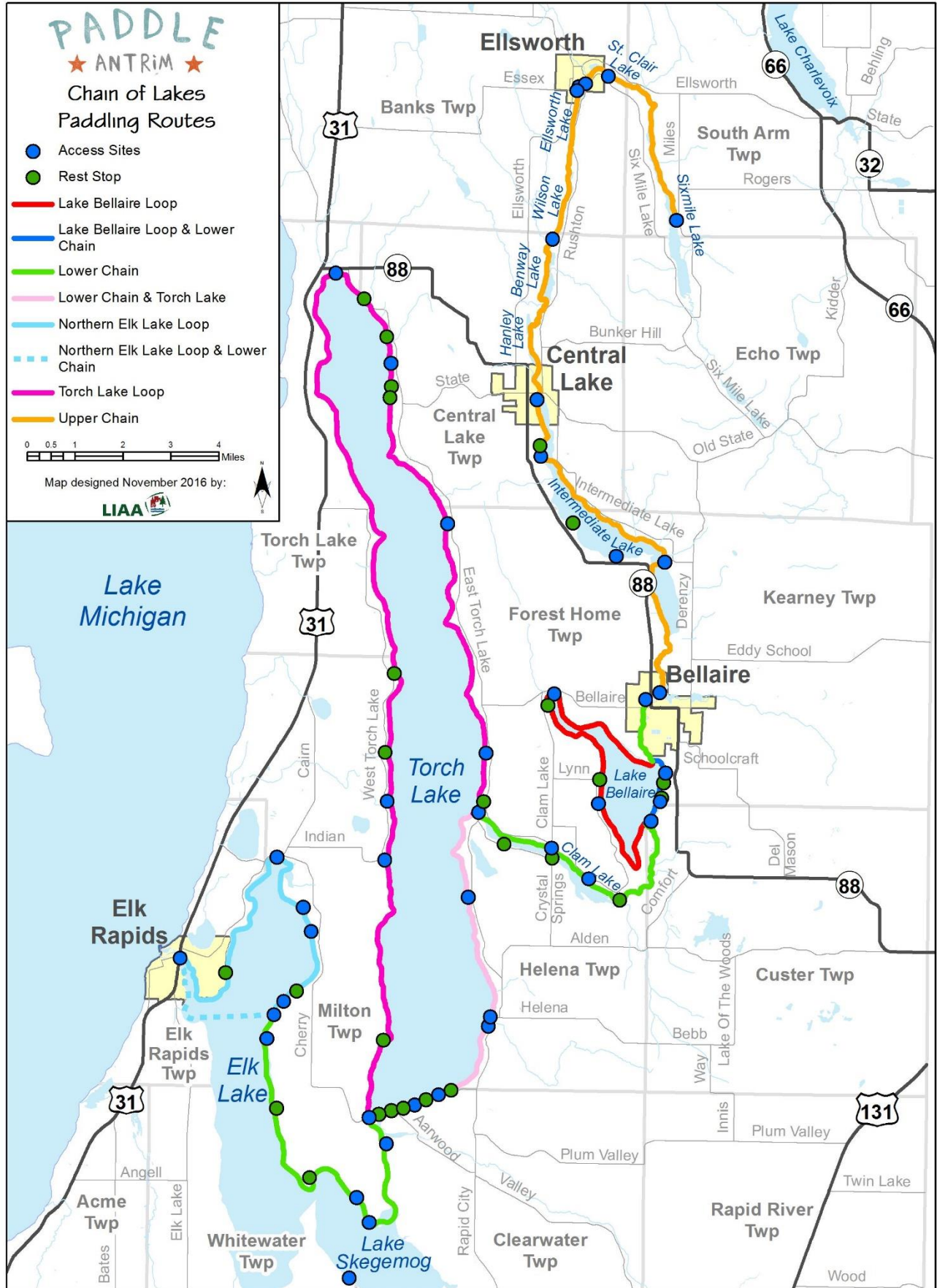
NEXT STEPS

Over the next two years we will develop:

- Partnership agreements with access site owners
- A prioritization of access site and trail improvements
- Sign specifications and installation plan
- Additional sites and routes

JOIN US TODAY

Become part of our great community of volunteers, supporters and champions. Your donation helps us further our mission to protect our lakes and rivers, develop the water trail, and educate waterway users. Find out more at www.paddleantrim.com



SIX MILE LAKE

- Six Mile Lake
- St. Clair Lake – Six Mile Lake Natural Area

ST. CLAIR LAKE

- St. Clair Lake

ELLSWORTH LAKE

- River Park
- Community Park
- Ellsworth Lake

WILSON LAKE

- Wilson Lake

INTERMEDIATE LAKE

- E. Bradford St/Thurston Park
- South St
- Houghton Rd
- Central Lake
- Snowflake Rd
- Gorham Beach Park
- Openo Rd

INTERMEDIATE RIVER

- River St/Richardi Park
- Ohio St

LAKE BELLAIRE

- Eckhardt Rd
- Lessard Ln
- Cottage Dr
- Cottage Drive Park
- Notewares Landing
- North Lakes Rd
- Fisherman’s Paradise Rd
- Fisherman’s Paradise
- Willow Day Park

GRASS RIVER

- Grass River Natural Area

CLAM LAKE

- Arrowhead Park
- Crystal Spring Rd
- Clam Lake
- Chapman Rd

TORCH LAKE

- Eastport
- Sutter Rd
- Campbell Rd

- Waring Rd
- Indian Rd
- Severance Ave
- Torch River Bridge
- Lake St
- Division St
- Pine St
- Cedar St
- Maple St
- Birch St
- Oak St
- Alden Safe Harbor
- Valleau Landing Park
- Paige Rd
- Old Torch Lake Rd
- Steiner Rd
- Pinnell Rd
- Forest Home Family Park
- Lake St
- Alberta St
- Meggison Rd
- Wak-Wing Rd
- Burch Terrace
- Lake Ave

TORCH RIVER

- Torch River

LAKE SKEGEMOG

- Fairmont Dr
- Quail St
- Chippewa Trail
- Lake Skegemog

ELK LAKE

- Rex Terrace
- Milton Day Park
- Ringler Rd
- E. Elk Lake Dr
- Schweitzer Ln
- Easley Rd
- Bussa Rd
- Kewadin
- E Third St

ELK RIVER

- Rotary Park

APPROVING JURISDICTIONS

Paddle Antrim wants to sincerely thank the access site owners who have formally approved their sites for inclusion on the water trail. We look forward to collaborating with you on each access site.

- Antrim County
- Banks Township
- Bellaire, Village of
- Central Lake Township
- Central Lake, Village of
- Clearwater Township
- Ellsworth, Village of
- Elk Rapids, Village of
- Forest Home Township
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Grass River Natural Area, Inc.
- Helena Township
- Kearney Township
- Little Traverse Conservancy
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Milton Township

Several businesses, organizations, and individuals also support and contribute to the water trail planning process including:

- Antrim Conservation District
- Bellaire Chamber of Commerce
- Central Lake Chamber of Commerce
- East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce
- Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce
- Short’s Brewing Company
- 64 sponsors and donors